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# *Pink Eye*

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## *What is pink eye?*

- An infection of the eye caused by bacteria or viruses.

## *How does a person get pink eye?*

- Easily spread by direct contact with discharge from an infected person's eye, nose or mouth.
- It can be spread by fingers, towels, clothing and other articles such as eye make-up applicators and eye drops.
- Can be spread until it is treated.

## *What are the signs or symptoms?*

- Can cause watery, red eyes, itchiness, swelling and sensitivity to light.
- There may be pus or discharge from the eyes.
- It can last 2 days to 3 weeks.

## *How is pink eye treated?*

- See your doctor for diagnosis and treatment.
- A person with symptoms due to a bacteria, should not return to child care, school or work until after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment. It is important to complete the antibiotics as prescribed.
- Discard or wash items that may have been in contact with eye or nose discharge.

## *How is pink eye prevented?*

- Good handwashing reduces spread of pink eye.
- Teach children to avoid touching infected eyes

## *Quick Facts*

- Caused by a bacteria or virus.
- Good handwashing reduces spread.
- Bacterial infections treated with antibiotics.

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For more information contact your doctor or Public Health Services  
at (306) 655-4612

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*Population and Public Health*